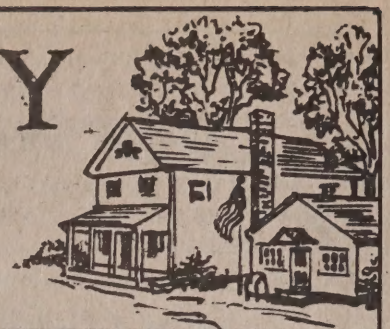


MONTEREY NEWS

NOVEMBER 1986



LAKE GARFIELD DRAWDOWN QUESTIONED

A member of the Conservation Commission questioned the commission's responsibilities regarding the pending drawdown of Lake Garfield in the light of the commission's recent ruling about the proposed drawdown of Stevens Pond by owner Irving Yost.

The town has used drawdown as a method of weed control in Lake Garfield for the past 11 years.

The commission required proper procedure detailed in an order of conditions that would be issued by the Commission to Mr. Yost in regard to the Stevens Pond drawdown.

Commission member Bonner McAllester, a long-time opponent of lake drawdown, who was unable to attend the meeting because of a previous commitment, recommended in a letter to commission members Katherine Mielke, Ellen Pearson, Conrad Ohman, Fred Vorck, Art Hastedt and Jed Lipsky that Lake Garfield not be drawn down at all this year pending further study of the environmental impact.

She said in the letter that she had spoken to Leo Daly and Tom Keefe of the State Fish & Wildlife department, who recommended that October 15 be the latest date to begin drawdown due to a possible impact on . . . [bottom dwelling] animals, an important part of the lake's food chain.

She further cited the possible environmental impact of drawdown without certainty of an early spring date to begin refilling the lake that would prevent further impact on fish requiring a certain lake depth for spawning.

She said in her letter, "... the Wetlands Protection Act protects fisheries, and 'fisheries' includes fish habitat, nutrient source, food supply."

Mr. Lipsky disagreed with Ms. McAllester. "The time for an environmental study of drawdown was six months ago, not at the 11th hour, a week before drawdown is scheduled to begin."

Mr. Vorck observed that weed growth had diminished substantially, and Dean Amidon of the Lake Garfield Association (LGA) concurred. "This is the best year we've had in 11 years," he said in regard to low weed growth.

Joe Baker, who attended the meeting, asked if the LGA had ever held a hearing with the commission about the possible impact of drawdown on fisheries.

The commission had not held such a hearing.

Mr. Amidon admitted that, "Drawdown is not the complete answer, but it is a holding action." He noted that an extensive study is being done on extending the life of Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield and will include a study of drawdown. He recommended that the Commission avail itself of the findings of the study.

The commission unanimously voted to re-examine the practice of lake drawdown and address the fuller ecological ramifications of drawdown in the spring.

In other business, the commission settled a dispute with Brown Associates in regard to the disposal of stumps on the property of a Mrs. Pappo, where they are doing repairs on the septic system. Jack Cysz of Brown Associates and contractor Joe Wilkinson agreed to handle the disposal of the stumps in the requested manner, and the Commission agreed to allow the repair work to proceed.

At the Selectmen's meeting, the board officially began the process of Lake Garfield drawdown.

Mr. Lipsky called Ray Tryon, who is the liaison person assigned to alert downstream abutters that could be affected by drawdown. They will post a bulletin and communicate with the Town Clerk.

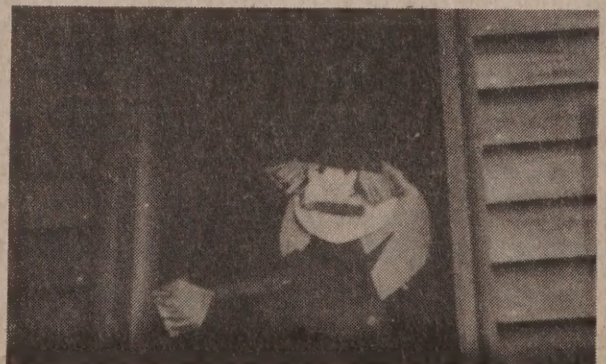
Drawdown will begin October 20 and should be complete about November 3.

The board decided that the gate will go down again for refilling of the lake on February 16, 1987.

In other business, the Selectmen issued a number of permits. A well-drilling permit was issued to John Piretti for an existing house on Route 23. Ida and Paul Weitz were issued a building permit for an addition to their Tyringham Road house. Alf and Lena Pedersen of Route 23 were given a building permit for a house addition. David Andersen received a driveway permit for his home on Blue Hill Road and also received approval for a building permit for Ira Transport, for an addition that he has been contracted to build.

The board voted unanimously in response to a request from both Sen. Peter Webber and Rep. Christopher Hodgkins to support a County Advisory Board proposal to fund a feasibility study about continuing two secondary railroad lines in Berkshire County.

Reprinted with permission from Judith Freeman's report in the October 16 Berkshire Courier.



SUSAN McALLESTER

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEW SCHEDULE:

9:30 CIRCLE OF MEDITATION
MUSIC AND SHARING

10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME

CHURCH NEWS

After many interviews and much prayer and deliberation, the Search Committee is very happy to announce the selection of a candidate who will be in town November 15 and 16 to be presented to the members of the Congregation for approval.

To give members and friends an opportunity to meet him, on Saturday, November 15, the Search Committee will host an Open House to be held in the Church Social Room from 6 to 8 p.m. All are welcome.

On November 16, the candidate will be conducting the Sunday morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. At that time the members of the Church will vote on his appointment as minister of the Monterey United Church of Christ.

BEING TEACHABLE

The things that we already know are an enormous barrier to learning. Knowledge itself turns out to be the greatest handicap the student will ever encounter. "What kind of foolishness is this?" you may say. Since knowledge is the greatest objective of learning, how can our present knowledge ever be considered a hindrance?

Jesus put it quite bluntly. He said, "Except you become as a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of God." The child is able to enter because he doesn't know, and precisely because he admits he doesn't know. Who was it that said, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." Well, that is obvious. The key here is that a little learning may begin to feel like a lot of learning, and the person with that little learning begins to act with a lot of information still missing. And, of course, that person begins to stumble all over the place with much knowledge still unrealized.

Now comes the tricky part. Here is a person with "much learning," say the president of a university, or the head of a government, or the leader of religious establishment. Now these are people who know. They couldn't have arrived without knowing a lot, could they? Of course not. We all know that.

But has it not now and then passed through your mind that this very "knowing" may turn into their greatest handicap? How often it happens. What they know now becomes their greatest barrier to further learning. Have you ever heard of a head of government who was so dead certain that he had the truth so completely wrapped up that it became almost impossible for him to accept any new light on the situation? Have you ever heard of any other people who gained a lot of knowledge, but who finally stumbled in their failure to bring new knowledge, new learning into their situations? Of course you have. It is happening every day.

This begins to underline the statement with which we began. The things we already know are an enormous barrier to learning. When Jesus instructs us to become like little children in order to enter the kingdom of God, could he have meant that we must also stay as little children to remain in touch with God's kingdom?

When will we ever learn that all our knowledge is partial and incomplete? Indeed, in any area you might mention there are untold universes yet waiting to be revealed. What is your guess about scientific knowledge? I wonder if we have even scratched the surface yet. What is your guess about our knowledge concerning human relations? Is our present understanding illuminated with much more than a dim, smoking torch at present? And concerning the fuller understanding of the human-divine encounter, who imagines that they are beyond the first grade yet?

There is no barrier to learning so great as the arrogance of supposing that one already knows. This is not an argument encouraging a know-nothing attitude. It is a statement encouraging a deep humility in every stage of our learning. "Lord, teach us again and again how to be like a little child."

— Virgil V. Brallier

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Tuesday, October 14, 1986

Dear Liteky, Miso, Murphy, and Willson,

I first heard of your fast two weeks ago, and my quick response was equivocating. Without pause I thought, Save me from the heroes and villains. My life uses me up every day, and puts me down tired at night. I have no room left to champion causes. I thought, Veterans fasting for peace? Fighting war is a large and dark undertaking for an individual. If he sees a light later on, the credible atonement has to be correspondingly large. This happens outside a small life like mine. My self, my work, my family, my neighborhood and town all need more of me now than I can give: what excuse can I offer for carving off yet another chunk of myself and giving it away to some crackpot fasters, to our own national government so far gone, to Central Americans remote and unknown? When I first heard of your fast, I mostly wished I hadn't.

Twenty years ago I would have left for Washington right away to denounce policy and lend you moral support. It's tempting to deny the suspicion I have come to feel now, but there it is, and the more I consider it the more I see its merit. After all, good householders make reluctant soldiers, and, the substance of causes aside, isn't the quick will to fight a large part of the problem? The daily round of an ordinary life may be tiring, but it's nourishing too. Seeing the details clearly, and attending to the life in one's own small pond is a matter of cultivating a modest but endlessly renewable resource. The nonapocalyptic mode has real virtues and should never be put aside lightly.

Of course, we can't omit the substance of causes, and I was reluctant to take sides, I had little doubt as to where I would line up. For two weeks after I first learned of your fast, all the news I heard kept nudging me one way. I heard a radio report on the drug war bandwagon. The point was made that despite the rash of print and teevee attention given the Drug Crisis, drug use has actually leveled off or declined in recent years, by the DEA's own account. The reporter questioned a CBS executive about this, and he said, in effect, "Hey, it's all what we make of it. A year ago you couldn't turn around without hearing about Central America but that's gone by. Now it's drugs." A man in the know. I heard General James Abramson talking about Star Wars, and he sounded like a boy to me. He had a boy's earnest faith, a boy's eagerness to tackle the tough job, a boy's devotion to duty, and a boy's false humility. Yet he was entrusted with responsibilities greater than any grown man could ever carry. The image of a boy's scrubbed, fresh face danced past me all day long, interfering with my work. Then Hasenfus appeared on the front page being led by a string. Heroes on the Capitol steps, I thought, villains in the Central American jungle.

A friend stopped by overnight, bringing pictures and a copy of your statements, as well as her own personal account of her fellow Vermonter Brian Willson's spirit and integrity. She told us about demonstrations of support up in her neighborhood. Then there was a report on the radio from the Capitol steps, and an account in *The New Yorker* magazine, and news of some Congressman pleading for the veterans to end their fast and carry on the Good Fight. Finally, the fast was front-page news in our own local *Berkshire Eagle*.

I knew the time was up for my initial response, but what to

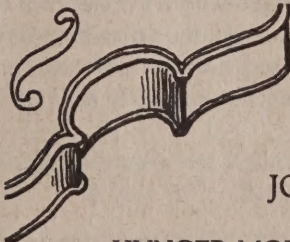
do? Turns out it was simple. Others nearby were already fasting a day or two on their own in support. There was someone to call who would add my name to the list. So today with no particular fanfare I drank only water and ate my words. Doing it I became certain of the mutual support and respect passing between us in a way I hadn't imagined leading up to it. I thought about you starving slowly, spirits clear, as I went about my business hungry one day, lightened by not eating. If I was slow to respond, I was certain when I did, and my token act gave back far more than it took.

I hope my response touches you, as you have touched me. Where you led I have followed in my way. If you choose to die, I know it will be in peace. If you live, we will all be stronger.

Sincerely,

Peter Murkett

P. S. October 16. The conclusion of your fast is great good news. First you stirred us awake, and now seeing the movement you have answered with your own lives saved. Rest easy and eat well again soon. Your strength has been multiplied, a hard job made easier, a dark time lighter. I am encouraged that together we can shift our behemoth nation to a better place. It's already begun.



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J. Weinstein

HUNTING SEASON COMING SOON

Tips from Monterey Landowners Association:

- Bow season for deer is November 3-22 of this year. Shotgun season begins December 1 and ends December 10. Primitive firearm season runs from December 15 to 17.
- For information about joining the MLA, which requires written permission from landowners to hunters intending to hunt on private land, send name, address, phone and questions to: MLA, Box 95, Monterey, MA 01245. Same goes for hunters looking for hospitable landowners. Anyone in town who wishes to allow hunting on his property, please send a card so we can match up hunters with willing landowners. Those who are impatient may call Bob Gauthier in the evening at 528-1624 to get or give information.
- New members and any old members who missed a chance last year may pick up their five free "No Trespassing" signs from Bill Mielke, Bob Gauthier, Welles Sellew, Ellen Pearson, Alice Hanlon or Lew Scheffey.
- Permit sheets to be distributed to hunters by landowners and auto placards to identify authorized hunters may be obtained from these same people.
- Extra No Trespassing signs are now on sale at the Monterey General Store (three signs for \$1.00, ten for \$2.50).
- Post signs at "reasonable entry points" and along road frontage, most importantly. Otherwise, around perimeters and along back lines, post signs within eye distance of each other or spray a blast of bright paint on trees between signs.
- Even if your land is not posted, a verbal statement requesting an individual to leave your property will be legally binding.
- If there is a violation of Massachusetts hunting regulations or of trespass laws, here is what you may do:

Call 800-632-8075 to reach Monterey's Environmental Police Officer (EPO), Joe Lynch. If Joe is not available, another EPO assigned to Berkshire County will be dispatched.

Call 442-0512, Berkshire County Communications System, if for some reason your first call gets no response. Officer Tom Kasprzak may be reached through this dispatcher. Officer Craig Scott may be reached through the Great Barrington police dispatcher at 528-0306.

Call 528-3211 for Monterey police, who can enforce simple trespass laws, laws forbidding discharge of any firearm across or within 150 feet of paved roads, and the law prohibiting possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any dwelling in use except as authorized by the occupant.

Call 243-0600, Massachusetts State Police, who have the same powers.

Call (617) 727-3189, if all else fails. It's the Radio Room, Division of Law Enforcement, Boston.

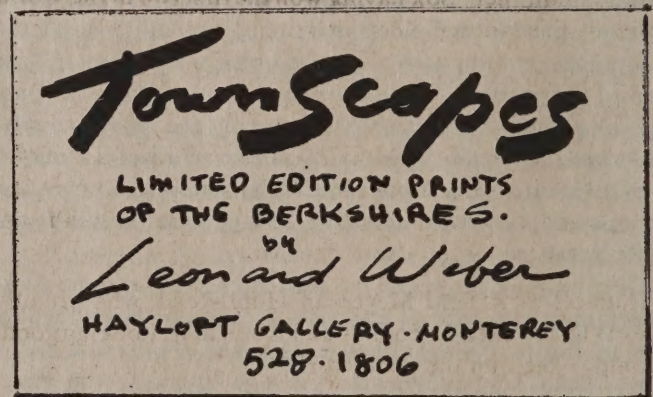
- **Remember:** Licenses are required by all persons 15 years old and over, must be displayed visibly and must be shown on demand to landowner or lessees. All deer hunters must wear conspicuously on chest, back and head a minimum of 500 square inches of "hunter orange."

As stated in the Massachusetts Abstracts of the Fish and Wildlife Laws, "a hunting, fishing or trapping license is not permit to trespass on private land, posted or not." Copies of the Abstracts may be obtained from the Town Clerk.

Ed Lawler, Deputy Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement, tells us that his Division will send extra officers from eastern Massachusetts to reinforce Berkshire game wardens during shotgun season. MLA will post its now familiar orange and black reminder signs ("Hunters: Written Permission Required") on most roads entering Monterey at the beginning of shotgun season.

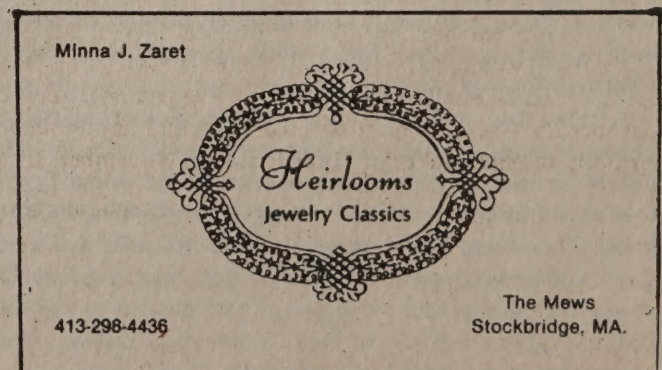
With efforts being made by landowners, law enforcement officers and hunters to cooperate for a safe hunting season, we expect deer week to be even more sane and satisfying than it was last year.

— Monterey Landowners' Association



IS THIS YOUR FIRST MONTEREY NEWS?

Many of you are receiving the *News* for the first time with this issue. If you would like to receive it each month, please write to The Editor, *Monterey News*, Monterey, MA 01245, and let us know. There is no subscription fee. To ensure that you will receive the next issue, we must hear from you by November 20.



PERSONAL NOTES

Hearty congratulations to **Suzanne O'Connell** and Thomas Christopher, who were married on October 4 at Rock Ridge in Monterey. Suzanne is the daughter of **Eugene and Georgiana O'Connell** of Curtis Road. She received her doctorate this spring (congratulations on that also!) in marine geology from Columbia University and is now staff scientist for the Ocean Drilling Program, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas. Mr. Christopher is a horticulturist, consultant and freelance writer. The couple will live in College Station, Texas, and West Nyack, New York. Best wishes, you two!

Hearty congratulations also to **Peter and Evelyn Vallianos** on the birth of their baby girl, **Christina Marie**, born September 23 in Pittsfield. All is well at their Bidwell Road home, where Christina joins older brother **Jeremy** and sister **Kate**.

Welles and Kay Sellew recently enjoyed a weekend visit from dear friends Herb and Marion Wheeler of Longmeadow, Long Island. Notice Kay beaming lately? She is one happy Red Sox fan, "her" Sox having won the first two of the World Series at this writing. Keep cheering, Kay!

Lucky **Patrick MacBride** had a wonderful time on a trip to Ireland with his dad this month. Welcome back, Pat!

Welcome back also to **Milly Walsh**, who enjoyed a fantastic trip to Nova Scotia. Milly reports that the weather was just perfect, and she found herself to be a good sailor. Glad you had a great trip—you deserve it, Milly!

Hats off to **Arnold Meyers** of Hupi Road, who proudly reports he has shed 14 pounds and is still at it. Looking good, Arnold—keep up the good work!

Arthur Somers is most excited about picking up his trumpet to join his new friend, musician Nancy Crutcher Tunnicliffe, in playing "A Song to the Moon." Seems practice sessions are now taking place at Rock Ridge. Will tickets be available soon, Arthur?

Reports of peeping toms on New Marlboro Road! **Gale Forbes** was laid out on her couch recovering from the almighty flu bug when she was surprised by two peeping toms at her window. Seems these turkeys from Brookmead Farm are a friendly lot and love to go visiting!

Belated, but nonetheless heartfelt, congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. George McVey** of Lake Garfield, who happily celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 3.

Happy birthday wishes to **Tracey Mendel** on September 30; to **Jimmy Gauthier** (who is studying hard at UMass) on October 2; to **Claire Mielke** on October 24 and **Stephen Bynack** on October 25—very happy first birthdays; and happy second birthday to **Sudi Baker** of Hupi Road on November 2.

— Stephanie Grotz



SUSAN McALLESTER

Stephanie Grotz

NOTES FROM ROADS AND MACHINERY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Road and Machinery Committee met on September 8 and October 6. At both meetings discussion focused largely on the consequences of the state's ruling that, in fact, the Town has violated open bidding practices. What this means for the Town of Monterey is still unclear, as Town officials have gotten different interpretations from different state officials. Richard Tryon made a motion at the October 6 meeting instructing Chairman Jed Lipsky to contact Town Counsel on this matter for a definitive reading of our obligations.

Other questions which arose during the discussion were: What is the Town's obligation if it receives no bids? Are two repairs miles apart on the same road considered one project?

Until this matter is settled, the Town is holding off on several smaller projects such as the curve on Mt. Hunger Road and the ditch at the top of New Marlborough Road. Although these jobs only require about one day's worth of contracted equipment, the Town needs to know whether or not it is required to request bids. Meanwhile, the Town crew is continuing with general maintenance work.

In related business, the Highway Superintendent, Don Amstead, has requested an estimate from Brown Associates on a design and cost estimate for the slide area on Route 23. This work was to have been done with flood money, of which about \$26,000 remains. It is anticipated that this project will be reduced to a minimum in order that it be done at all.

Glenn Heller presented his case that if a commitment to paint yellow lines on the roads before winter was not forthcoming he would turn the matter over to the Town's insurer.

In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that the DPW will probably paint lines on main routes next year. There was little enthusiasm for doing the project at this time of year, and the project has not been funded.

A discussion about salt and sand bids ended the meeting. Mr. Amstead was instructed to begin the process of manufacturing sand from the Town gravel pit.

The next meeting will be held November 10 at 6:00 p.m.

— Michèle Miller

CREATURE FROM THE DEEP

A few days ago a friend walked into my house, saying, "Did you know Lake Garfield has a population of rare and incredibly ugly fish called mudcats? They have their gills on the outside."

I am interested in anything to do with Lake Garfield, since I was more or less spawned there myself among the pondweeds in the shallow east end. As a small fry I spent timeless, endless days musing through the cattails and waterlilies, swimming like a muskrat or a pollywog, with no splash. I knew the painted turtles, the big snappers, the little blood-suckers, the mosquito wrigglers, bullfrogs, bullheads and beavers. Slim green pick-erel as still as sticks hung in the shallows, ready to disappear if I eased too close, and the geese with majestic mien moored offshore, their aristocratic calm all too easily disrupted by someone like me standing up suddenly or even just raising my muskrat face up from the water. I learned that, like other royalty, geese can be a bundle of nerves. But with all my intimate knowledge of the beasts of the lake, I never saw nor heard of any mudcats. This sounded like something out of Mark Twain.

After asking around, I learned that the creatures in question were not cats but pups, "mudpuppies," and that they are not fish either, for that matter, but huge salamanders. Because they are mostly nocturnal, mudpuppies are seen by very few people, even where they are quite common. They feed at night, hunting along the bottoms of lakes and streams for crayfish, aquatic insects and larvae, snails, and small fish and fish eggs. Once in a while a bait fisherman will catch a mudpuppy, and very often when he hauls it in and takes a look at it he will be most puzzled by what he sees.

Mudpuppies are usually between 7 and 17 inches long, though some have reached two feet in length. They have flat, broad heads and strong heavy tails which are flattened from side to side and have orange-tinted fins. Most mudpuppies are gray or rusty or brown with dark blotchy spots. They have four stubby legs, each with four toes, and can live to be twenty years old.

The most striking physical aspect of the mudpuppy, if you don't count the size, is its set of feathery red gills. These occur in three pairs, just behind the head. Unlike most salamanders, the mudpuppy keeps its gills and stays in the water all its life; other salamanders have an aquatic larval stage, with external gills, and then they move out onto dry land as adults, only returning to the water to lay their eggs. This prolonged larval stage is called "neoteny" and is found in some other kinds of salamanders, most notably the axolotls of Mexico and tiger salamanders of the Rocky Mountain states.

• • •

Years ago Joe and I worked on a ranch at 8,000 feet elevation in northwestern Wyoming. One time we took a picnic lunch and went for a walk on our day off up on a sharp dry ridge called Bacon Ridge. It was late summer, perfect, dry hot weather with a nice breeze. We were always on the lookout up there in the Gros Ventre Mountains for all kinds of dramatic Western wildlife: mule deer, elk, moose, bears, bighorn sheep. I'm sure we swept the valleys and ridges with our binoculars that day, looking for big mammals, but the creature I remember seeing was right beside us at our lunch spot, floating weightless near the edge of a shallow little pond. He was green and gold with feathery gills like bushes on the sides of his neck. I



had never seen anything like him before.

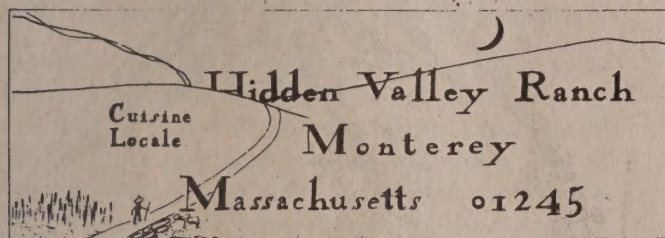
This was a neotenic tiger salamander, sometimes called an axolotl, though that name usually refers to another species found only in Mexico. In the Rockies, where there is an iodine shortage in the water, people develop thyroid troubles such as goitre, and tiger salamanders have developmental abnormalities, namely neoteny. Both conditions can be reversed by administering a little iodine or with a shot of the thyroid hormone thyroxine. The Mexican axolotl also can be induced chemically to a "normal" adulthood with thyroxine. Some axolotls get jolted out of their prolonged larval stage by being upset. People have shipped them home to biological labs,

hoping to examine further these "adult larvae." When they open the crate they find the larvae have metamorphosed into typical adult salamanders because of some internal chemical changes resulting from the stress of travel.

There are only five species of our North American mudpuppy, but it does have a wide distribution in eastern North America, from southern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Mudpuppies are neither pests nor are they commercially profitable; consequently, they have not received much attention from the scientific world. Our Lake Garfield population of mudpuppies does not even exist yet scientifically in that it has not "been described" in the literature. So far, no mudpuppies have been grabbed, measured and pickled for science from the Housatonic watershed, but it probably won't be long before one of our local herpetologists rectifies this situation. In the meantime we have a secret harmless monster in our lake which I haven't even seen yet myself. I hope when I meet my first mudpuppy he won't be gazing at me from a big bottle of formaldehyde. I hope we'll both be paddling in the shallows of east Garfield in our extended childhoods among the waving pondweeds.

— Bonner McAllester

MICHELE MILLER



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SUSAN McALLESTER

Hostess at Rawson Brook Farm's Open House



SUSAN McALLESTER

Guests at Rawson Brook Farm's Open House on October 12:
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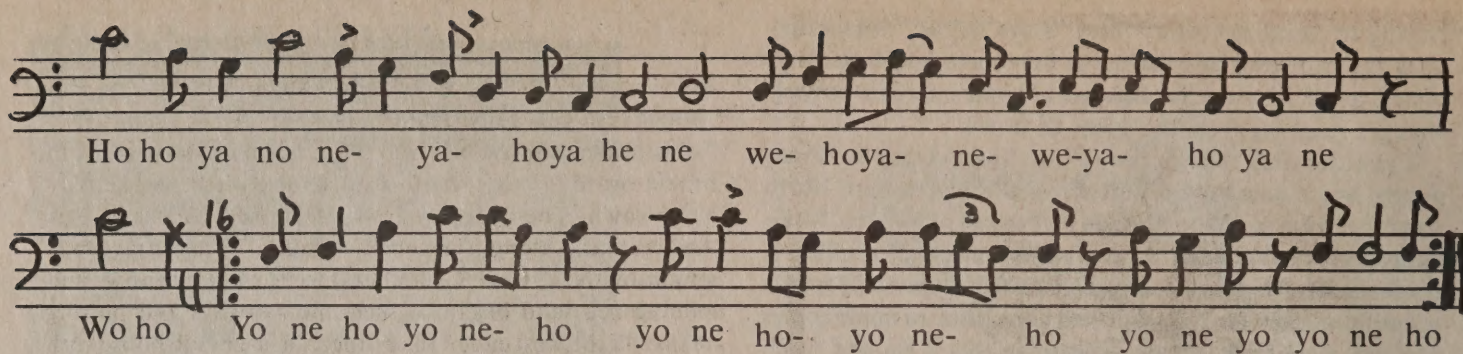
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Passamaquoddy Snake Dance Song; Newell Joseph, Calais, Maine, 1890

THE OLDEST RECORDED INDIAN SONGS

The possibility of recording music and other sounds for enjoyment and study became a reality in 1887, when Thomas A. Edison invented the phonograph. Edison soon had a factory producing "Ediphones," handwound spring-driven machines that recorded sound vibrations on a wax cylinder. The idea took hold quickly in the United States and, soon after, in Europe. At first people were fascinated with the idea of popular and classical music and the voices of famous people in their homes, but scholars soon were hard at work studying exotic musics from all over the world.

The anthropologist J. Walter Fewkes made the first of these recordings in 1890 among the Passamaquoddy Indians in Maine, and the Zuni Indians in New Mexico. A transcription of one of the Passamaquoddy songs is given here. The announcement on the cylinder, in Fewkes' voice, identifies the melody as a Snake Dance song, and the recording is clear enough so that the transcription could easily be made, even though it is nearly one hundred years since the record was obtained.

The words are apparently all vocables, nontranslatable syllables that carry the melody. The division of the song into an introduction (the first line) and then a rhythmic part repeated seven times, is similar to the Stomp Dance songs still performed in the Southeast and the Northeast. There is a sixteen-beat pause between the introduction and the main body of the song. I had a Snake Dance described to me by Passamaquoddy Indians in the 1950s as a follow-the-leader social dance that wound its way around the village. It may be that the Snake Dance of sixty-five years earlier was similar, or even the same. The description also reminds one of the style of the Stomp Dance.

There is a good chance that our own Mahican Indians had songs and dances like this, but no European observers were interested enough in them to leave us a description.

— David P. McAllester

HANDMADE WINDSORS

PETER MURKETT

Monterey, Mass. 01245 Tel. 413-528-9937



I HAVE A HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY

*I have a house in the country
and I here see various animals.
They come out of the woods
and to me have the aspect of freakish variants
on the scheme of "animal," grotesque miracles
in the otherwise subdued and normal world of trees, wind and sky
and I have an enormous admiration for them
making it, handless and thoughtless,
in this larderless world,
what we have left of it, of nature,
and sporting for surfeit, a luxury surely,
each and everyone outlandish graces
of figure, movement and substance
most peculiar, and even dignity, varied by kind,
comporting a restfulness almost unbelievable
and a kind of ingathering like self-consciousness almost,
or reflection of a metaphysical sort
putting me to shame, but, of course, they cannot last,
being, although gentle, wild.*

— Stefan Brecht

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HISTORY OF MONTEREY DONATED TO LIBRARY

A unique and detailed history of Monterey, still in type-script, was donated to the Monterey Library recently by the author, A. Wallace Tryon. Mr. Tryon undertook this work in 1972 out of his own prodigious memory and with the help of many collaborators. An index of all the families mentioned in the history was prepared. It includes appendices by several other Monterey historians: "The Monterey Post Office," by Della Tryon, contributed in June, 1966; "Industry in South Tyringham" (Monterey) by Beulah Taggart Peacock (1969); "The Elephant Rock Community," by Rachel Young Lutz; "Monterey Festival of the Arts," by Margaret Bidwell White, (1973); "The Lake Garfield Dam," by A. Wallace Tryon (1973); and "The Inns, Taverns and Boarding Houses in Monterey," by Beulah Taggart Peacock (1969).

Tryon's history is a guided walking tour of the town. He takes the reader, road by road, through the town commenting on each building, or site of a former building, in turn. Family histories, the rise and decline of local industries and social organizations, and the evolution of Monterey from a farming community to a resort town are all included. The history is a treasure house of local lore from the time of the first settlers to 1972. It is illuminated with a sharp and kindly perception of human nature, pride in this unusual town, and humor in delineating some of its foibles.

A few individuals in town are fortunate enough to have copies of the history, and the Lee Library also possesses one. It will undoubtedly be published some day, but as each year goes by the realization grows that history goes inexorably on, and it is time to retrace the roads of Monterey updating the biographies of our residents and beginning the saga of the new homes that have appeared on nearly every road and on a good many new roads since 1972.

— David P. McAllester

THE LAKE GARFIELD GOLF CLUB

The Lake Garfield Golf Club was formed in 1928 by our summer residents of Monterey. This was a stock company, and A. Wallace Tryon was the only resident of Monterey who came forward to buy a share of stock to help promote activity in the town. The property back of Harold Greene to Sue MacIver's and along Tyringham Road, a 93-acre tract, was bought by the L. G. G. C., and at once the old meadows and undeveloped land began to turn into fairways and putting greens. At the west end of the property a large club house with kitchen, showers, and ballroom was built, and the view from the porch overlooking the mountains on a New England sunset evening was out of this world.

They had many activities in the afternoons and evenings. In the large ballroom at one end of the long room stood a large open fireplace made of fieldstone taken from the stone walls on this property. At the north end of this sixty-foot building were two large glass doors that opened onto the first fairway. This was also very convenient for elderly people, allowing them to enter the building from ground level. In the center of this room hung a large chandelier which was very attractive. They had many social dances with a five-piece orchestra playing until midnight. The dances were held on Saturday nights for the convenience of the many persons who worked in New York and came by train to Great Barrington or Hillsdale on Friday night to be met by the family car.

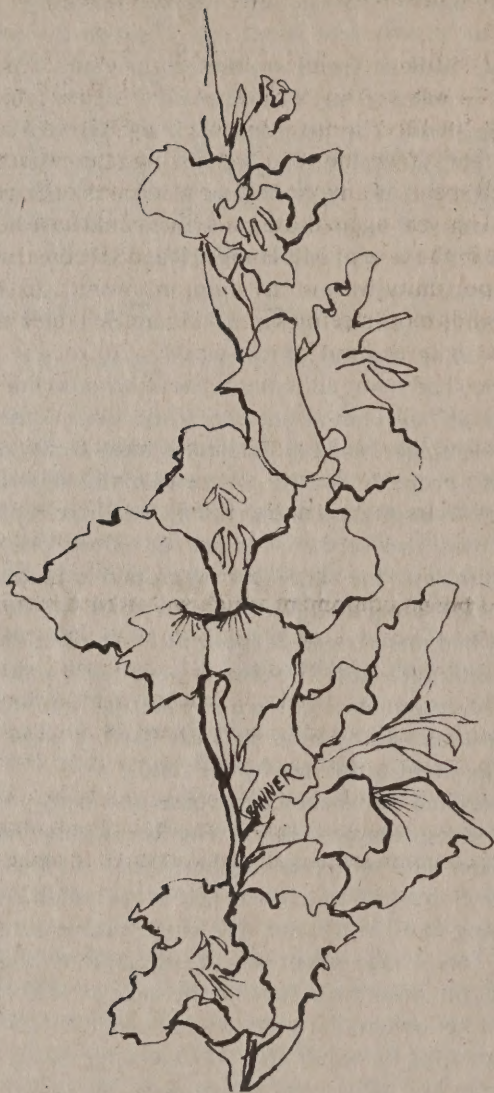
They had clam bakes, corn roasts and many potluck suppers during the summer season. The Rev. George Miller was the minister who was preaching here then, and he started "sings" at the club house which were held in the building every Sunday evening at eight o'clock. The singers came early and stayed late. Mrs. Grace Miner was at the piano. Grace would bring the hymn book from the church and everyone had a book of his or her own so the words could be followed. Whoever had a choice song he would like to have sung would call the page number and off they would go. Rev. Miller was the leader of the group

The club had a big loss as the building caught fire and burned. From then on the club went downhill until they decided to sell the land and equipment. They sold tractor, fairway mowers, greens mowers, hundreds of feet of iron pipe, an electric motor, a large storage tank for water, and at last the land to Donald Amstead.

From A History of Monterey
by A. Wallace Tryon



Monterey Golf Club, drawn from photo in collection of the Monterey Historical Society



LIKE THE RED ROSE

Great splash of paints
And fiery red
The autumn goes
Like the red rose.

Waving its pennons wild
Sad notes on wind:
"Over this dirgelike air
I am still there."

Trying to say goodnight,
Lost, now, with you . . .
I see the mountains glow
Tawny below.

Rose perfume fills my heart
White snow hills stretch
Some autumns never go
Spite of the crispèd snow.

Thoughts now, though fragmented,
Still have their say
(Often a thought is brief,
Blown like a falling leaf.)

I linger on, the words
Now escape me.
Sunset is giving way,
Red rose has had its day.

Sue Moody



Ladies Aid Picnic, August 23, 1923



To the Editor:

One summer day over two years ago we were, to our dismay, prevented from driving to our home by the presence of heavy equipment and the Town crew, who were in the process of reconstructing Harmon Road.

Having had no warning that this project was about to begin, much less that it would turn a nice road into a subdivision avenue, I contacted everyone I could think of, pleading with Town officials and workers alike to stop or at least alter their approach. All to no avail. Now every time I drive or walk along that road I'm reminded of what once was and the deaf ears of those responsible.

The purpose of the project was ostensibly to improve drainage and make snow removal easier. For \$16,000 of flood money, that was accomplished, but our present Superintendent, Don Amstead, will concede that it was a poorly conceived project.

From that time I have been very sensitive to the alteration of Monterey's back roads and also to the process which allows and even encourages the loss for years to come of one of our greatest assets as a town.

Following that experience I petitioned the Planning Board to place the Scenic Roads Act on the town meeting warrant. This act provides that any cutting of trees or tampering with stone walls along designated roads requires a public hearing, thus bringing projects into public awareness. Unfortunately, the Planning Board, already burdened with hearings and meetings, did not wish to pursue this avenue.

It was at this time that I was invited to join the Roads and Machinery Committee, ostensibly to introduce another point of view into the decision-making process. At the first meeting

I attended we adopted a set of guidelines which, if followed, would afford even greater protection than the Scenic Roads Act.

The first occasion to use the guidelines came when Gould Road was improved as far as Art Hastedt's house. Ten of us met for three hours, abutters and interested parties walking up and down the road, discussing alternatives—it was time well spent, as anyone can see who cares to drive out that way.

This year again those guidelines could have been put to good use in the case of Mt. Hunger Road's reconstruction. But that opportunity was, in my opinion, missed. As a member who attends most meetings and takes notes, I remained ignorant of that project until its existence was brought to light in the newspapers amid the tumult which has brought our town to grief.

Some of the questions raised around this project deserve attention. Whether we will spend more or less on road work now is an unknown. But there are other questions still to be raised. Is it the Town's responsibility to anticipate growth and prepare for it at taxpayers' expense? Should we invest in more and bigger equipment which will in turn require bigger road surfaces? And how are priorities set for work to be done? Shouldn't the slide on Route 23 across from the former Schweitzer property take precedence over providing a subdivision-quality access road to land where no homes exist? But most importantly, should the fate of Monterey's roads not be of concern to all of us, and should we not be invited to participate in those decisions? There's more than one way to do any job, and common sense is all that's required to make a contribution.

Sincerely,

Michèle Miller

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SUSAN McALLESTER

THE NIGHT SKIES

"Can'st thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?"

Like Orion, the Pleiades are one of the most widely noticed of the constellations. They derive their name from the Classical myth of Pleione, who bore seven daughters to Atlas, the great giant who was made to hold up the heavens on his shoulders. The daughters were hunting companions of Artemis and once encountered Orion in the field. He was smitten with desire and pursued them; in answer to their prayers for help, Zeus turned them into doves and placed them in the sky where they sail forever above Orion's reach.

They are described in Chinese annals of 2357 B. C. and were worshipped by girls and young women as the Seven Sisters of Industry. Hesiod called them the Seven Virgins, and Milton the Seven Atlantic Sisters, but the Greenland Eskimos saw them as seven dogs baiting a bear. Another association has been as a hen with her chickens, from Arab star lore to current European folk beliefs. November has been called the Pleiad-month since this is when they appear in the evening sky early enough for most of us to see them. The quotation above is from Jehovah's list of all the things Job, a puny human, could not do.

Saturn is the evening star in early November, setting at dusk close to the new moon on the 3rd and 4th. Jupiter is the brightest star in the evening sky, well up in the south and south-southeast at dusk. The full moon will be so close to the Pleiades, as they rise together on the evening of the 16th, that this attractive cluster of small stars will be hard to see. Venus and Mercury will be rising near each other as morning stars, getting brighter and higher at dawn each day, from November 19 on.

— David P. McAllester

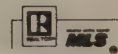
CITY NIGHT

*City lights blink on and off when
The sun goes down.
The night prowlers come out of their
homes.
The stars twinkle a secret code
which nobody knows.
The moonlit alleys are full of fun
for some.
At least it's fun for what nobody
knows.*

— Becky Parks



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CAROL LEWIS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

At their meeting on October 14, the Monterey Conservation Commission (MCC) spent considerable time discussing the autumn drawdown of Lake Garfield, which falls under its jurisdiction according to the Wetlands Protection Act. One MCC member had recently expressed a strong opinion that the MCC should exercise its legal duty to conduct a legal review process to decide about the drawdown's effects on water quality, a stand which the MCC had unanimously adopted in reference to the proposed drawdown of Stevens Pond earlier this year. However, at this meeting the MCC declined to treat the drawdown this way.

Several salient facts about the Lake Garfield drawdown emerged from the discussion at the meeting: while the original reason for the drawdown was "weed control," no study or record of any kind has been made of the effects of the drawdown on the plants in the lake; opinions about the aquatic plant situation are mixed, and by most accounts seem to be split evenly between those who think it is better than it was and those who don't; since the original hearings and decision to draw the lake down in 1976, there has been absolutely *no review* by the MCC of this action and its effects on water quality, let alone "weed control"; it is acknowledged by all biologists, fisheries scientists, and lake specialists that drawdown has a drastic effect on the survival of many animals important to lake ecosystem stability, mainly benthic organisms (vertebrates and invertebrates living in shallows and hibernating in mud, such as salamanders, turtles, dragonflies and other insects, and numerous microscopic to tiny animals on which fish feed), and also more visible creatures such as muskrats and beavers; the Lake Garfield Association, which requested the drawdown, has made no attempt to determine how the drawdown is affecting the health of its lake and yet continues to expect annual drawdowns while hoping that somebody somewhere will come up with a solution to its "weed problem."

The MCC members attending the meeting voted in favor of allowing this year's drawdown to proceed. In the discussion and by their vote, the MCC demonstrated a position which I feel is unconscionable for our town board whose duty it is to protect water quality (which, by definition in the Wetlands Protection Act, includes protection of fish, their habitat and nutrient source, and thus clearly involves the ecological health of lakes). As the MCC is aware, state law sets a limit of three years on any "order of conditions" granted for wetlands alteration; an annual action must be reviewed at least that often, and "review" in the sense of the state statutes means a Public Hearing process. There was no such advertised Public Hearing this year, nor has there been one since 1976. The MCC has flagrantly ignored its own regulations in this case in order not to upset the Lake Garfield Association, while only weeks ago it carefully stood by those same regulations while processing the application of a single landowner. What seems worst to me is that the MCC policy is taken at the expense of Lake Garfield's health. There should be yearly review of the effects of drawdown, which is an action designed for one single factor—killing aquatic plants.

Our world has been ill-managed and ill-treated for centuries; now it is becoming clear that we must treasure our natural resources, such as lakes and their inhabitants, in order for our planet to be able to support life. I believe that responsible husbandry of our resources should be a primary concern here at home in Monterey. The MCC should halt the drawdown of Lake Garfield and hear the facts from both sides of the issue before deciding whether it is a prudent and safe course to follow.

Respectfully,

Joe Baker

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Edith Wilson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

October 10, 1986

Primary roads in Monterey represent a definite and unnecessary hazard to residents and travelers. The immediate danger referred to is the lack of painted centerlines and shoulderlines.

Selectmen were notified about this situation in a letter from this writer dated September 9. The response from Chairman Hans T. Kessler at the September 15 Selectmen's meeting was that no money was available in the Roads Maintenance budget. At that time, Mr. Kessler was reminded by this writer that \$12,000 remains in the Federal Revenue Sharing Account and that it can be used for projects dealing with road safety. In addition, he was reminded of an approved article on the Warrant at the Annual Town Meeting authorizing Selectmen to borrow from the bank at their discretion in anticipation of future tax revenues.

Mr. Kessler said he did not feel the work needed to be done at this time and that the State D. P. W. might be painting all numbered routes anyway sometime next year. Subsequently, a call was made to Dean Amidon, Chief Highway Engineer at the State D. P. W. in Lenox. When asked about this proposed work, he was unable to guarantee that the State would even fund the project, and he could not say when the work might occur.

Without adequate markings these roads represent a major liability to the Town and its insurance carrier. Increased premiums or policy cancellation could result should an accident occur wherein the Town is found negligent and liable. In Otis last year, two needless traffic fatalities resulted in a liability suit against the Town for failure to maintain a stop sign. Plaintiffs claimed damages of five million dollars.

Monterey could be faced with a similar tragedy. As drivers can testify, during low fog, nighttime or snow conditions, road surfaces are extremely difficult to see. Without road markings, driving becomes downright dangerous.

It now appears residents will go through another winter without these necessary road safety measures. At the October 6 Roads and Machinery meeting, the Selectmen and the other Committee members rejected a request to have the work done. They cited the same reasons mentioned at the above September 15 meeting—lack of money.

These are the same individuals who allocated money to reconstruct Mt. Hunger Road *right after a Selectman bought 350 acres of abutting land*. They report \$20,000 was allocated for that project, but Town records indicate more than \$50,000 was spent. They report State Flood money was used, while D. P. W. records indicate Town Operating money was the source. *No one lives on the rebuilt Mt. Hunger stretch*, but it received Committee priority anyway. In a tightly budgeted town like Monterey, spending *any* money on a project like Mt. Hunger Road is selfish and thoughtlessly negligent while primary roads, *which are used by everyone*, suffer in disrepair. Painting the road lines would cost \$5,900 (according to a written estimate from Markings, Inc. of Pembroke, Massachusetts), and *the entire community would benefit immediately from the expenditure*.

Lines can still be done this year, but there is a time constraint. Road paint will not adhere properly below 50 degrees. Since

winter approaches, work should get underway without delay. In the future, this work should be scheduled as part of regular annual road maintenance.

It is a shame to see the Town's motorists placed in jeopardy as a result of a stubborn decision to forego a few miles of inexpensive yet very essential highway markings. The Selectmen should not wait until someone gets maimed or killed. This necessary maintenance should proceed immediately before a tragic road accident occurs here.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn M. Heller
Lake Garfield

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NOTICES FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The yearly drawdown of Lake Garfield will begin on Monday, October 20, 1986. The gate will be opened in stages and will be completely open about November 3, 1986. It is planned to close the gate again on Tuesday, February 17, 1987. However, the gate will be closed earlier if there is a big thaw with threat of flooding.

The dates were requested by the Lake Garfield Association and were voted by the Selectmen on October 14, 1986.

The winter hours for the Monterey Sanitary Disposal Area will begin on Sunday, October 26, 1986, as follows:

SUNDAY: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (unchanged)

SATURDAY: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (unchanged)

N. B. Stickers for authorized users' automobiles may be obtained from the Town Clerk, from Selectman Hans Kessler, or from the Town Office Secretary.

CALENDAR

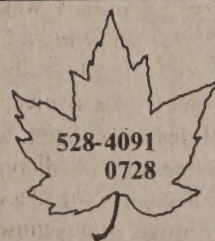
Square and Contra Dance Schedule

Saturday, November 14—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, \$3.50; children, \$1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, November 28—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. Joe Baker, calling; music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission: \$3.50. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Holiday Community Dinner

Wednesday, December 10—Festivities in honor of Thanksgiving and Christmas will be the program at the combined November and December potluck Community Dinner in the church social room at 6:30 p.m.



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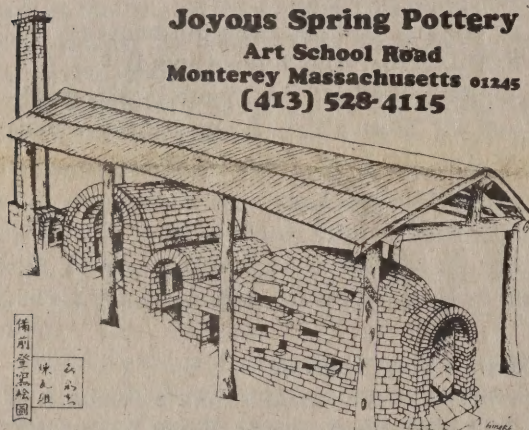
He is doing well and will be back to work shortly.

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